

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels in the Barents Sea	DATE DISTR.	25 March 1955
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1. At about 1200 hours on 24 August 1954 at least seven naval vessels far out to sea north-northeast. The vessels were 20 to 25 nautical miles from three large units. They all disappeared on a westerly course.

2. At about 1100 to 1400 hours on 8 September three naval vessels were seen coming out of the Kola Inlet. One of them turned east and went along the north coast of Kildin Island (N 69-21, E 34-10) covering the area with thick white smoke. It then disappeared for a short time but then came back later on another course. The two others continued in a north-northwest direction, and they later turned even more toward the west. In the meanwhile, the first ship returned. It followed the other two vessels without laying any smoke. All the vessels disappeared into the Motovskiy Gulf (N 69--30, E 33-00).

3. All three vessels were similar. Each had a slightly raked bow, and gun turrets with two approximately 4-inch guns in each turret. There was a break from the forecastle to the lower deck about midway on the bridge superstructure. Each ship had a tripod mast forward of the first stack, two low stacks, and one gun turret on the afterdeck just aft of the second stack. On one side of each vessel three or four machine guns which resembled Oerlikons. Approximately abeam the after stack there was some equipment which resembled the rocket equipment some of the merchant ships were equipped with during World War II; also rocket runners. On the side of each ship, between the stacks, there were life rafts

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